



Washington, D.C. 20505

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OCA 95-2351
14 September 1995

Mr. Mark Lowenthal
Staff Director
Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mark:

SUBJECT: Notification

COUNTRY: Honduras

ISSUE: Update on the Death of U.S. Priest James Carney

Forwarded herewith is a background paper on two uncorroborated reports relating to the death of Father James Carney 12 years ago. This paper is provided in an effort to keep the Committees updated on any new information regarding the case. One report [redacted]

[redacted] Father Carney was killed during the encounter between the military and the insurgent group. The second report was provided by the insurgents who were with Carney when he was captured. A full report on the review of CIA activities in Honduras, generated by the recent Baltimore Sun series, will be briefed to the Committee when completed. [redacted]

If you have any further questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to call. [redacted]

Sincerely,



Joanne O. Isham
Director of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ☐ DATE:
29-Jun-2010

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D264-1

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SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION Regarding Update on the Death
of U.S. Priest James Carney

DCI/OCA/[redacted] (06 Sep 95)

OCA 95-2351/1-5 [redacted]

Distribution:

- Original - Mark Lowenthal, HPSCI (w/encl)
- Original - Michael W. Sheehy, HPSCI (w/encl)
- Original - Charles Battaglia, SSCI (w/encl)
- Original - Chris Straub, SSCI (w/encl)
- Original - The Honorable C.W. Bill Young, HAC/NS (w/encl)
- Original - The Honorable Ted Stevens, SAC/DEF (w/encl)
 - 1 - OCA Records (w/encl)
 - 1 - DCI/COS (w/encl)
 - 1 - EXDIR Staff/Oliver (w/encl)
 - 1 - Honduras Data Base (w/encl)
 - 1 - DO/LA (w/encl)
 - 1 - DI/ALA (w/encl)
 - 1 - D/OCA (w/o encl)
 - 1 - [redacted]
 - 1 - [redacted] Chrono (w/encl)
 - 1 - Notification File (w/encl)

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29 August 1995

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Reporting on the Death of U.S. Priest James Carney

1. The following information is provided in an effort to keep the Committees updated on any new information on the case of Father Carney. A full report on the review of CIA activities in Honduras, generated by the recent Baltimore Sun series, will be briefed to the Committees when completed.

2. We recently received uncorroborated information relating two additional accounts of Father Carney's death 12 years ago, that was highlighted in the Baltimore Sun series.

3. One report [redacted] claim Father Carney was killed during the encounter between the military and the insurgent group. One of these sources says Carney was buried at the site of the conflict.

4. According to the second report:

- Father Carney was tortured to death by the Honduran military, and his body dismembered. Pieces of the body were buried in various places near Palestina in the Rio Patuca area.
- Carney had been captured, along with a group of insurgents, as the result of information provided by farmers in the area bordering Nicaragua.
- The military had distributed photographs of Carney, and leader of the insurgent group Jose Maria Reyes Mata, to farmers with instruction that they report the presence of Carney or Reyes in Honduran territory.

5. According to [redacted] the second report, this account of Carney's death was provided by the insurgents who were with Carney when he was captured. It is not clear whether these insurgents witnessed his death or simply heard about it.

[redacted] this version has not been heard previously, and we have no information to



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SUBJECT:

substantiate it. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The assessment of the DI's Office of African and Latin American Analysis is that this is the least credible version of Father Carney's death, given its sourcing and lack of corroboration.

6. Other accounts indicate Father Carney died of starvation while traveling with the guerrillas or that he was captured and thrown from a helicopter by Honduran military personnel. We have been unable to substantiate definitively or rule out any of these accounts.

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Congressional
Action

Priority Handling

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION: Reporting on the Death of U.S. Priest
James Carney

FROM:			EXTENSION	DATE SENT	REQUEST NUMBER
				29 Aug 95	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)		DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after comment.)
		RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1.			8-30	8-30	
2.					
3. EXDIR			31	MM	
4.					
5. OCA Attn:			5/12	MM	
6.		05/09	06/09	gaw	
7. D/OCA					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
RETURN TO:					SUSPENSE DATE:

Rec'd 9/5/95 - OCS

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Priority Handling